

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
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S E C R E T USNATO 1206

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TAGS PARM NATO
SUBJECT MBFR: AHG BRIEFING OF THE COUNCIL MARCH 4

REF MBFR VIENNA 89 DTG 021750Z MAR 77

SUMMARY: THE NAC ON MARCH 4 RECEIVED A REGULAR BRIEFING FROM THE AD HOC GROUP. AHG SPOKESMAN WAS BOLLAND (UK). HE WAS ASSISTED BY CAGIATI (ITALY) AND WINTER (LUXEMBOURG). IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT BOLLAND ADHERED CLOSELY TO THE TEXT IN REFTEL. THE NAC DISCUSSION OF THE AHG REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON DATA DISAGGREGATION IS REPORTED SEPTTEL. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS OTHER ASPECTS OF THE DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

1. CATALANO (ITALY) OPENED THE DISCUSSION PERIOD FOLLOWING BOLLAND'S PREPARED STATEMENT. CATALANO SAID THAT THE EASTERN ASSERTION THAT APPROXIMATE PARITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER ALREADY EXISTS DOES NOT RAISE HOPES ABOUT A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME TO MBFR. HE NOTED THAT
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THIS EASTERN ASSERTION CONFLICTS WITH MUCH THAT THE EAST HAS SAID IN THE PAST. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF A TABLING OF RED DATA MIGHT HELP UPHOLD THE PACT POSITION THAT THE NEGOTIATION SHOULD BE BASED ON DATA TABLED BY EACH SIDE ON ITS OWN FORCES. THE ALLIES MAY THEREFORE WISH TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE AHG TO TABLE RED DATA AS SOON AS APPROPRIATE.

2. BOLLAND AGREED THAT THE EASTERN ATTITUDE ON DATA WAS UNCOM- PROMISING, AND THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF ALLIED COUNTING RULES MADE THE ENSUING WEEKS DIFFICULT. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL IS

LOST. THE AHG IS TILL ON ITS OWN GROUND. WE STILL BELIEVE THAT OUR DATA IS RIGHT, AND THAT THE OTHER SIDE IS NOT COUNTING CORRECTLY. RE RED DATA, THE AHG STILL CONSIDERS THAT ITS REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE LIES WITH THE NAC. THE AHG BELIEVES THAT FOR THE MOMENT IT DOES NOT NEED TO TABLE RED DATA. THE AHG IS STILL TRYING TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND GET THE OTHER SIDE TO VALIDATE ITS FIGURES. ALTHOUGH THE AHG WOULD STILL LIKE NAC AUTHORIZATION, IT IS NOT READY TO TABLE RED DATA. KILLICK (UK) SAID HE ALSO WAS NOT DEPRESSED BY THE FACT THAT THE EAST HAS BEEN SO UNCOMPROMISING. THE ALLIES ARE STILL ON THEIR CHOSEN GROUND, WHICH IS GOOD GROUND, AND THE EASTERN SIDE MUST KNOW THAT THERE IS A DISPARITY IN MANPOWER.

3. HARDY (CANADA) ASKED THREE QUESTIONS: (A) ARE THERE ANY SIGNS THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE HAS BEGUN TO AFFECT MBFR; (B) WHAT IS THE AHG'S RESPONSE WHEN THE EAST BRINGS UP THE QUESTION OF NON-FIRST-USE IN VIENNA; (C) DOES THE RENEWED EASTERN CLAIM THAT REDUCTIONS SHOULD INCLUDE NUCLEAR SYSTEMS IN NON-US HANDS MEAN THAT THE EAST MAY GIVE RENEWED EMPHASIS TO THIS QUESTION IN SALT II?

4. RE HUMAN RIGHTS, BOLLAND REPLIED THAT THE EAST OGTEN REFERS TO CSCE IN ITS WIDER SENSE, BUT NEITHER THEY NOR WE MAKE ANY DIRECT LINK. RE NON-FIRST-USE, BOLLAND SAID THAT EASTERN REFERENCES WERE LARGELY POLEMICAL AND PROPAGANDISTIC. THEY HAVE NEVER ASKED FOR A FORMAL RESPONSE FROM THE AHG, AND THE AHG HAS NOT MADE ONE. RE NUCLEAR SYSTEMS IN NON-US HANDS, BOLLAND SAW NO CONNECTION WITH SALT II. THE WEST HAS PROPOSED IN MBFR CERTAIN REDUCTIONS IN US
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SYSTEMS AND THE EAST MAY FEEL THAT THIS REDUCTIONS OFFER IS MITIGATED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFER TO NON-US ALLIES. HOWEVER, THE EAST HAS MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT IN VIENNA TO ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF MBFR.

5. TINE (FRANCE) STATED THAT THE QUESTION OF NON-FIRST-USE SHOULD NOT BE TREATED IN VIENNA. HE NOTED THAT THE AHG IS OF COURSE NOT AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE IN THE NAME OF THE ALLIANCE ON THIS SUBJECT.

6. CAGIATI AGREED WITH BOLLAND'S EARLIER REMARK THAT THE AHG CONSIDERS ITS REQUEST FOR NAC GUIDANCE ON RED DATA REMAINS ON THE TABLE, AND THAT THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE NEED FOR THE AHG TO TABLE RED DATA.

7. ACTING SYG PANSAL, IN SUMMING UP, SAID INTER ALIA THAT THE AHG REPS WOULD TAKE NOTE OF TIME'S REMARKS. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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